

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

The new Territory of Colorado embraces two-thirds of the former Territory of Kansas (all of it not embraced within the present State), a portion of what was Utah, and a slice each from Nebraska and New-Mexico, making its area hardly less than half a million square miles. Its backbone is the Rocky Mountains, whereof it includes nearly half the entire length, and its waters flow into the Columbia, the Colorado, the Rio Grande del Norte, the Missouri, and the Arkansas, respectively. A very large portion of this great area forms extensive tracts of arid desert, which may possibly be made of some slight value as pasturage, but which can never be inhabited by a civilized population. It will grow neither grain nor vegetables, unless by the aid of irrigation, which is only practicable on very limited areas near the mountains and streams. In and near the mountains, indeed, there are occasional showers of rain throughout the summer, and winter grains, grasses, and vegetables, grow moderately well here. The several "Parks" are level, often fertile, valleys in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, each several hundreds of square miles in extent, and said to be delightfully attractive. But their elevation above the sea-level can hardly be less than six thousand feet—the plain this side of the mountains being fully five thousand—so that frosts must be about as frequent here as fogs in a New-York or New-England valley. The plains and valleys have little or no timber; the mountains have enough; and the salubrity of the whole region is undeniable. It is the Switzerland of America, plus (or minus) its gold-mines, of which more anon.

The Governor of this new Territory is Mr. William Gilpin from Western Missouri, whence he has been accustomed to indite letters on the West of high poetic merit. Living at Independence, Mr. Gilpin was wont to demonstrate the approaching inauguration of that city as the commercial emporium of the globe, which demonstrations have not yet been actualized. In fact, we believe Independence has been running down ever since Gov. Gilpin commenced writing it up, so that it is now but a relic of what it was and barely a shadow of what the Governor insists that it shall be. But prophets seldom live to witness the triumph of their vaticinations.

Gov. Gilpin has succeeded in assembling a Legislature at Denver, which is the Territorial capital, and well may be, since it probably contains the only brick buildings within the Territorial limits. Denver is a city of great enterprise, but of moderate prosperity, its business depending on the productiveness of the adjacent gold-mines on the one side and on the influx of gold-seeking greenhorns from the States on the other; and as the gold-banks have been sparing in their discounts this year, the greenhorns have almost ceased to flow in, so that the grog-shops and gamblers of the metropolis begin to see hard times.

This, however, we do not learn from Gov. Gilpin's Message, unless inferentially. The Governor recommends an organization of the miners of Colorado; claims for her a population of 30,000 (which we greatly doubt, unless he includes the Indians, whom he estimates at 25,000, and whom we certify to be in the main about the poorest specimens of Humanity we ever met); dilates on the future Pacific Railroad, which he says a recent exploration has shown will pass through Denver and up Vasquez Fork, Clear Creek, otherwise through the Middle Park, and so over to Salt Lake, shortening the route by the North Platte and the South Pass some two hundred miles. He says this route fulfills all the requirements of economical construction, easy transit, &c., which we are very glad to hear.

On the ticklish subject of Gold, the Governor is cautious and vague in his statements. Having stated that but three years have elapsed since the first exploration of this region by pioneer gold-seekers, and that all that exists of the evidences of civilization has been achieved meantime by labor, he proceeds:

"The experience and labor establish many facts. The existence of the precious and rare metals in absolutely inexhaustible abundance and variety; the universal fertility of the soil, as well upon the flanks of the great mountains as upon the plains and within the park; the uniform splendor and salubrity of the climate; the facility of transit and penetration by routes over all varieties of surface; these facts, conclusively established, demonstrate that our country is supremely favored by nature with all the elements which promise unrivaled rapidity of progress, prosperity and power."

"As the extraction of gold with which our great mountains are permeated forms the primary occupation of our industrial population, and supplies the medium of commerce, I recommend that the condition and wants of our mining region be specially reported to the Federal Congress. To aid in perfecting the processes of economical mining, and indefinitely increase the production of the precious metals and coin, the liberal assistance of the Government and of Science ought to be invoked, and it will be given."

"These be good words; but, knowing what we do of Gov. Gilpin's sanguine temperament, and the rosy hues wherein every thing Rocky Mountainish is presented to his mind, we could not conscientiously advise any one to stake his pile on the gold mines of Colorado. What 'the liberal assistance of the Government' and 'of Science' may hereafter achieve, we, not knowing, can't say; but it is clear that 'the processes of economical mining' in his territory need 'perfecting'; to which end liberal appropriations of Federal money for that Territory would be highly acceptable. Of course the mines will prove 'inexhaustible,' if it costs two or three dollars to extract therefrom a dollar's worth of gold."

A private letter from the Governor dated the 1st inst. urges that the Confederate rebels are about to enter upon "a conflict" for the "possession of the great mountains"—that is, for his metropolis and the gold-diggings adjacent. "This," he says, "has suddenly become a strategic point of immense importance," and he has ten thousand tall fellows, who, not being successful in extracting gold from the everlasting hills, would like to try their hand upon Uncle Sam's Strong-box. Not to put too fine a point on it, "Money is wanted," says the Governor. We have a doubt of it. For, says he,

"It is in the programme of the Southern policy to invest the mountains and Mexico. The North is not awake to this. The war raging on the Potomac does not menace the permanent prospective over-

throw of the Continental Union; the possession of the mountains does. Who has ever displaced the people of the Alps, the Tyrol, or the Caucasus? Let such a people hold this mountain system, its passes, and its parks, and the hope of a Continental Union is quenched forever. It is a policy to anticipate and conquer results."

"If the Government will only send the Governor Five or Six Millions of its surplus cash, and authorize him to enlist, arm, equip, mount, and feed eight or ten regiments, we will warrant that Jeff Davis does not get the Rocky Mountains this year, and that gold will be more abundant in and around Denver than it has ever yet been."

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Election Frauds in Camp—Mr. Seward's Recent Circular—The Trade Sale—Socks and Blankets—City Defenses—A Rotten Ship.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 22, 1861.

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From Our Own Correspondent.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 22, 1861.

You know that by a law of this State, our troops when in camp are allowed to vote at any election that may occur while thus situated. No troops from any other State enjoy a similar privilege; nor should our present experience of the viciousness of the system operate on other States in any other way than to warn them against sanctioning so fruitful an incentive to the most villainous frauds. It is notorious that our home elections, conducted under the eyes of Vigilance Committees, constantly on the watch to detect every semblance of fraud, have nevertheless been stained by every form of cheating and perjury. All this in open daylight, with hundreds looking on to insure the poll being conducted fairly. But how wide a door for swindling has been thrown open by transferring the polls to camp, where irresponsible inspectors preside, and take in votes from hundreds not Pennsylvaniaans, though attached to Pennsylvania regiments, while the returns can be fixed up with impunity, when thus out of sight, to elect any set of candidates. The first camp election under the law has developed a deplorable state of things. It has effectively destroyed all purity in the ballot, and nullified the popular will. The returns from camp are about as reliable as a rebel lie. They have unquestionably been doctored by the Democracy to defeat numerous Republican candidates, and it is to this cause alone that many Democrats owe their election to the Legislature. See what all our Judges said when application was made to them to authorize the returns from camp to be opened and counted. They unanimously advised the Prothonotary to do no such thing, but to hold the returns secret until he was well assured that no more were to come in; and they gave as a reason for this advice, that if one return thus prematurely opened were found to elect one party, the next would forthwith fix up the return from the next regiment so as to elect the other party. The cheating they took for granted, nor did any one, in a crowded court-room, venture to hint that it was not a matter of course. This appears to be the normal condition of the ballot here. With all the guards of home vigilance, cheating is yet done to an enormous extent; but when voting is carried on in camp, not a man has been found to stand up and say that there was the least semblance of honesty about it. There is no doubt but that the returns have been doctored to defeat the Republicans. Our inexperience caused us to poll a small vote and secure small majorities, and these have been swept away by the cheating practiced on us in the army.

It cannot be denied that Mr. Seward's extraordinary circular created both sensation and alarm among us for at least two days. That nobody here was in the secret is shown by the diversity of views entertained concerning it. It was wholly unexpected. One class regarded it as a purely speculative demand for use at the Stock Boards of the great cities, as men high in office have been known to be guilty of similar misdeeds for private gain. Another felt satisfied that this note of warning was evidence that the Cabinet was in possession of information that England was about to get up some difficulty with us, under cover of which the blockade was to be forced in order to obtain cotton, and that our warships would be attacked in consequence. This view was taken in spite of the almost unanimous tone of British journalism in discussing the cotton question with scarcely alluding to forcing the blockade as a remedy for the present scarcity. A third class thought they detected in it the germs of a project to compromise with the South. They considered it a method of discouraging the North with apprehension of having two wars on hand at the same time, as to induce it to entertain the idea of getting rid of the first one by consenting to a demoralizing peace with rebellion. By such it was regarded as a feeler, a straw held up to ascertain how public opinion set. Great was the indignation expressed by these, and violent was their condemnation. It was generally conceded to have been put forth most inopportunistly, when no Legislature having power to act was in session, hence it looked like an indirect invitation to call for extra sessions, at the same time being a confession of weakness—the Government unable to fortify the seaports, therefore they must take care of themselves. It knocked the stock-list flat for a day, checked the popular rush for the national loan, and furnished another subject for mysterious and indefinite wonder and alarm, hence the misfortune of having such a circular issued at such a crisis. There are some of the speculations entertained here and hereabout. Most happily the public confidence thus rudely disturbed has very nearly regained its former equipoise; but the circular will continue to have a discouraging influence in interests less elastic than stocks. The ground taken by THE TRIBUNE is the only true one—that our harbors will be effectively fortified by a vigorous prosecution of the war until rebellion is crushed. Expend our men and money in doing that promptly and completely, and the harbors will take care of themselves. This is what the country is getting impatient to see done. That impatience is showing itself in various ways, in spite of its confidence in the future. The result of many recent elections is most significant of this restiveness.

The trade sale of books has not been a success either as regards quantity sold or prices obtained. Neither has the attendance been large, all the South being absent, and much of the West. Moreover, the terms of sale were cash within fifteen days, which materially reduced prices and curtailed demand. The fact is, that books are to a great extent a luxury to the masses, who in scarce times stop off almost everywhere they can dispense with without actual suffering.

The builders of marine engines in this city have far more work on hand than at any former period, but by taking on extra hands they manage to get through with heavy jobs in extraordinarily short time. No new Government vessel has had to wait an hour for her machinery. Vessels built or building in private yards have been snapped up for Government use. Even some of our stanchest ferry-boats have gone the same road. Building of iron and other steamers goes on more briskly than ever.

A shower of blankets and socks is coming in from all quarters for the soldiers. In New-Jersey, the Governor has called on the people to raise funds to give each of the troops from that State a water-proof blanket, some 10,000 in number, and the work of raising the money is going on. These blankets are furnished at \$1 each, but the funds will be forthcoming. The ladies there have knitting clubs for making socks. Great sums of money are coming home from some of the Pennsylvania regiments for their families, and the distribution is doing immense good. The amount thus received here will seem to relieve the necessities of the season. The volume of correspondence from camp is almost fabulous.

SENATOR BAKER.

COLONEL OF THE CALIFORNIA REGIMENT—HIS LIFE AND DEATH.

From The Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct. 22.

The country will be profoundly affected by the intelligence that the Hon. E. D. Baker, Senator from Oregon, Colonel of the California Regiment recruited in this city, and commander of a brigade mostly made up of Philadelphia regiments, was killed in battle yesterday, near Leesburg, Virginia, while gallantly leading his men into the fight. A more noble and patriotic statesman and soldier did not live, and it is a sad task to chronicle his untimely death.

Senator Baker's life has been almost a romance. He is an old Philadelphian, and of Quaker lineage. His ancestors were English Friends. Col. Baker himself was born in England, and was brought to Philadelphia when an infant, where he, with a younger brother, were left orphans soon after their arrival.

This calamity left them no resource but to work their way through the world with their own hands. For a while young Baker, the present Senator, worked as a hand-loom weaver in an small manufacturing establishment near Thirteenth and South streets, where the loom upon which he labored is still standing. It is likely, now, to become an object of interest. Before he reached manhood, he paid some attention to the study of the law, and left Philadelphia for the Great West. His pure English light, and his young and earnest countenance, caught the eye of a young Quaker, and he was taken to the Ohio River, where they descended in a canoe, and at last found themselves on the broad prairies of Illinois. In this State, Col. Baker took up the study of the law in a regular way, and soon made for himself a name, even at the bar of Springfield, where he met—some of his future enemies—some of his future friends—both the deceased Douglas and President Lincoln.

Being of active mind, he took part in the politics of Illinois, but as he was a Whig, and in a strongly Democratic State, he did not appear in public life until 1845, when he was elected to Congress. Shortly after this, the Mexican War broke out, and Baker, who had been born in England, and went out to reinforce General Taylor. Returning home as a bearer of dispatches, after several months' service on the Rio Grande, he resumed his seat in Congress, but almost immediately resigned and rejoined his regiment. He participated in the siege of Vera Cruz, and in the bloody struggle at Cerro Gordo, and was wounded at the latter battle, Colonel Baker took command of the brigade.

After the war was over, Col. Baker was again elected to Congress from Illinois, where he served with distinction during the sessions of 1849 and 1850. In pursuance of a contract with the Panama Railroad Company, he sailed, equipped, and led the Indian company of men, and he sailed for the Pacific coast, and cleared much of the track of that important highway. Here, in common with many of his laborers, he was seized with the deadly Panama fever, and nearly lost his life. He returned to Illinois with both health and fortune impaired, and in 1852 went with his family to California. In San Francisco Col. Baker soon took a firm rank in the profession of the law, and acquired a considerable practice. He was a man of a lawyer and oratorical penitence, and every part of that remarkable State. But he was famous also as an orator, and his panegyric of Broderick, over the body of the murdered Senator, is said to have been one of the grandest exhibitions of fervid eloquence ever seen or heard on this continent.

But little more than a year ago, the spirit of progress being still in full vigor in his breast, Colonel Baker removed to Oregon. His character and fame had preceded him, and almost immediately after his arrival, he was elected to the Senate of the United States for six years. True to his instincts as a patriot, he was a second time, under almost similar circumstances, laid aside the robes of the legislator for the armor of the soldier.